

MINUTES HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED.

**THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION
TO STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATIVE TO TEACHER
LICENSURE ASSESSMENTS**

Minutes
May 10, 2005

Meeting Date and Location: May 10, 2005
Holiday Inn
West Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia

Committee Members Present:

Thomas M. Jackson, Jr.	David L. Johnson
Debra Abadie	Linda W. Kelly
Phillip W. Wishon (for Doug Brown)	Betty Lambdin
Thomas Shortt (for Nancy M. Davenport)	Andrew J. Rotherham
Jo Lynne DeMary	Ella P. Ward
William H. Graves, III	Ann Williams
Edgar B. Hatrick, III	

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Thomas M. Jackson, Jr., called to order the meeting of *The Special Committee of the Virginia Board of Education to Study and Make Recommendations Relative to Teacher Licensure Assessments*.

OPENING REMARKS AND WELCOME

Mr. Thomas M. Jackson, Jr., made opening remarks, and welcomed committee members and guests to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 22, 2005, meeting were approved unanimously.

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DISCUSSION OF DRAFT RECOMMENDATION PRESENTED BY MR. JACKSON

The following draft recommendations were presented to the committee for discussion:

Recommendation: *It is recommended that the Board of Education prescribe the following professional teacher's examinations for initial licensure in Virginia: (1) Literacy and Communication Skills Assessment; (2) Praxis II (content assessment); and (3) if applicable, the Virginia Reading Assessment.*

Implementation of the Prescribed Professional Teacher's Examinations:

The implementation of the prescribed professional teacher's examinations would include the following guidelines:

1. The assessments [Literacy and Communication Skills Assessment, Praxis II, and the Virginia Reading Assessment (VRA), if applicable] will be required for all individuals seeking initial licensure in Virginia except individuals who have completed a minimum of two years of full-time, successful teaching experience with an effective license from another state at the time of application. The proposed effective date for the implementation of the licensure assessments is January 1, 2006, depending on the timeframe to develop the Literacy and Communication Skills assessment.
2. The Literacy and Communication Skills Assessment will be composed of two areas—reading and writing. The test will measure communication and literacy skills necessary to teach and communicate effectively with parents and others in the education community.

[Individuals will be asked to demonstrate comprehension and analysis of readings; development of ideas in essay form on specific topics, outlining and summarizing; interpreting tables and graphs; mastery of grammar, and mechanics; vocabulary; and writing.]
3. Requirements for admission into approved programs, including entry assessments, will be set forth in the *Regulations Governing the Approved Programs for Virginia Institutions of Higher Education*.
4. Individuals eligible for licensure who have not completed the assessment requirements may be issued a provisional license not to exceed one full school year.

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5. Individuals seeking the Pupil Personnel Services License and the Technical Professional License will not be subject to the assessments. *Regulations Governing the Approved Programs for Virginia Institutions of Higher Education* and the *Regulations Governing the Licensure of School Personnel* will set forth the communication and literacy competencies for these license types.

Recommended Assessments:

Individuals seeking initial licensure will be required to complete the following assessments stipulated by each of the designated routes to licensure:

Virginia Approved Program Completers	Virginia Career Switchers (Alternate Route Program)	Individuals Seeking Licensure Via an Out-of-State Approved Program	Individuals Seeking Licensure Via Holding a Valid Out-of-State License	Alternate Route (Provisional License)
The Literacy and Communication Skills test, Praxis II, and the VRA (if applicable) will be required for licensure	The Literacy and Communication Skills test, Praxis II, and VRA (if applicable) will be required as prerequisites to program.	The Literacy and Communication Skills test, Praxis II, and VRA (if applicable) will be required for licensure [except individuals who have completed a minimum of two years of full-time, successful teaching experience with a valid out-of-state license].	The Literacy and Communication Skills test, Praxis II, and VRA (if applicable) required for licensure [except individuals who have completed a minimum of two years of full-time, successful teaching experience with a valid out-of-state license].	The Literacy and Communication Skills test, Praxis II, and VRA (if applicable) will be required for licensure within one full school year of employment.

Authority: § 22.1-298 (A, B1, and F) and §23. 9.2:3.4 of the *Code of Virginia*; § 8VAC20-21-10 et seq. of the *Regulations Governing the Licensure of School Personnel*; and §§ 8VAC541-20, 8VAC541-30, and 8VAC20-541-50 of the *Regulations Governing Approved Programs for Virginia*.

The committee engaged in an extensive conversation regarding the recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION 1

Andrew Rotherham made a motion to accept Recommendation 1:

Recommendation 1: The assessments [Literacy and Communication Skills Assessment, Praxis II, and the Virginia Reading Assessment (VRA), if applicable] will be required for all individuals seeking initial licensure in Virginia except individuals who have completed a minimum of two years of full-time, successful teaching experience with an effective license from another state at the time of application. The proposed effective date for the implementation of the

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licensure assessments is January 1, 2006, depending on the timeframe to develop the Literacy and Communication Skills assessment.

Ella Ward seconded the motion that was approved unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION 2

Linda Kelly made a motion to accept Recommendation 2:

Recommendation 2: The Literacy and Communication Skills Assessment will be composed of two areas—reading and writing. The test will measure communication and literacy skills necessary to teach and communicate effectively with parents and others in the education community.

[Individuals will be asked to demonstrate comprehension and analysis of readings; development of ideas in essay form on specific topics, outlining and summarizing; interpreting tables and graphs; mastery of grammar, and mechanics; vocabulary; and writing.]

Ella Ward seconded the motion that was approved unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION 3

Betty Lambdin made a motion to accept Recommendation 3:

Recommendation 3: Requirements for admission into approved programs, including entry assessments, will be set forth in the *Regulations Governing the Approved Programs for Virginia Institutions of Higher Education*.

William Graves seconded the motion that was passed unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION 4

There was discussion regarding the length of time for individuals to meet the assessment requirements. Edgar Hattrick proposed to amend Recommendation 4 to allow the provisional license issued for a period not to exceed three years. He expressed concern that individuals employed from other states would have limited time to take the assessments. After additional discussion Dr. Hattrick made a motion that the provisional license be issued for two years for individuals to meet the assessments. The motion failed with a vote of 3-7.

The committed voted 7-5 to accept Recommendation 4 with the insertion of the word “otherwise” as follows:

Individuals, otherwise, eligible for licensure who have not completed the assessment requirements may be issued a provisional license not to exceed one full school year.

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.